

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, FAO

SUBJECT: WFP/IGC-26: FIRST PLENARY MEETING

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FRASER AND SMITH.

SUMMARY. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE HEARD STATEMENTS IN FIRST PLENARY MEETING RE CONTINUING SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES, PROVISION OF FOOD AID THROUGH THE OAU, AND RELATION OF WFP WORK TO UN PROGRAM OF ACTION. CONSIDERATION THIS MEETING WAS CALLED FOR CONCERNING WFP ABILITY TO ASSUME LARGER ROLE AS RESULT OF WFC.

1. UNDER AGENDA ITEM ON ADOPTION OF AGENDA, NETH DEL RAISED QUESTION OF WHAT CHANGES IN IGC RULES AND ORGANIZATION WOULD BE NECESSARY IF IGC SHOULD BE CALLED UPON TO HELP MANAGE GREATLY EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAM AS RESULT OF WFC. COMMITTEE CALLED FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTER AT MONDAY MORNING SESSION AND REQUESTED SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE NOTE DETAILING WFP'S 12 YEARS EXPERIENCE DISTRIBUTING FOOD AID AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED WFP ROLE IF REQUESTED.

2. EXEC DIR'S STATEMENT STRESSED THAT PLEDGES MADE UNDER UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT BIENNIUM 20 PERCENT SHORT OF TARGET AND WFP FORCED

TO WITHHOLD ACTION ON \$600 MILLION WORTH OF PROJECT REQUESTS, DELAY SIGNATURE OF \$65 MILLION WORTH OF APPROVED PROJECTS, AND CANCEL FIVE APPROVED PROJECTS. ED REPORTED THAT LETTERS WERE EXCHANGED WITH OAU IN JUNE AND TWO PROJECTS WITH \$2 MILLION VALUE APPROVED FOR ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE UNDER QUASI-EMERGENCY PROCEDURE. ALL INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS STRESSED CONTINUED CRISIS IN PROGRAM RESOURCES DUE TO RISING PRICES AND RELATED COSTS, FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY SHORT SUPPLIES IN NORTH AMERICA AND DISAPPOINTING CROPS IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD. ED POINTED OUT THAT UNDER PRESENT PLEDGES WFP WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY SHORT OF WHEAT, COARSE GRAINS, DRIED SKIM MILK AND BUTTER OIL IN ONGOING COMMITMENTS.

3. COMMENTING ON "POSSIBLE SHAPE OF FOOD AID IN FUTURE" EMANATING FROM PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PC) SESSION, WFC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTED PC'S VERY BROAD CONSENSUS ON CONCEPTS OF FORWARD PLANNING OF FOOD AID PROGRAMS, CONTINUITY OF FOOD AID SUPPLIES, IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION OF OTHER FOOD AID OPERATIONS. HE HOPED GOVERNMENT WILL ENTER INTO ARRANGEMENT FOR PROVIDING MINIMUM ANNUAL QUANTITY OF GRAIN TO TAKE CARE OF "HARD CORE" FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS. WHILE DESIRABLE CHANNEL LARGER SHARE TOTAL FOOD AID THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS WFP, BULK WILL BE BILATERAL. REFERRING TO WFP ROLE IN INCREASED FOOD AID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTED WFP COULD EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE RESOURCES IN ORDER OF \$300 MILLION ANNUALLY. HE ADDED THAT SHOULD WFP RECEIVE ADEQUATE CEREAL RESOURCES, HE WOULD AGAIN URGE WFP TO PROMOTE FOOD RESERVE PROJECTS.

4. UNSYG STATEMENT CHARACTERIZED WFP OPERATIONS AS SUPPORTIVE OF UN PROGRAM OF ACTION AND TERMED DECLARATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. STATEMENT COMPLIMENTED WFP PROVISION OF AID THROUGH OAU AND SPOKE OF NEED TO MEET CHALLENGES OF UNGA SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION. VOLPE

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